

This essay represents how much I've learned in ENG 1010. Given English is federally required class I can tell you I haven't learned much what-so-ever. Learning yet another standard of writing essays and applying it to given assignments is probably something every student in the United States has done countless times. This doesn't mean the class is entirely useless however. Writing more essays in different formats gave me wisdom. Wisdom on what sentence structures flow well. Wisdom on how to appropriately emphasize different points. Wisdom on how to keep people interested and reading. Sure anyone can write an essay, but can anyone write one with such *wisdom*? The experience of writing cohesive essays can easily make someone seem more intelligent and experienced when writing messages. I believe I'm gaining this skill rapidly, maybe not due to the actual ENG 1010 teachings, but because of the sheer experience of writing essays and getting them critiqued by not only peers but the teacher as well.

College to me is largely learning to work with people. I already have more than 9 years of experience with programming and I want to be a programmer for a living. I have the skills and even the business skills to work adequately, but I don't have the piece of paper that says I do. I'm sure college will teach me how to work with people, which I desperately need, but I do not believe that it will give me the actual skills for being a part of the computer industry.

This English class is just forcefully grinding social and cooperative skills into my skull, much like many other classes I'm taking already. It has also introduced me to concepts of writing essays, so perhaps if someone were to mention a concept of writing an essay (rhetorical processes, composition strategies, etc) I wouldn't be completely in the blue. My favorite part of the class is writing about debatable topics and then introducing peers to it, then listening to their debatable topic. It opens my eyes to some of the views in the world, despite them being incredibly common or sensationalist. My

debate class was more direct in this matter, but ENG 1010 certainly covers some of the bases.

All in all ENG 1010 isn't a completely useless class, it not only introduces a few standards of writing essays, but it also incorporates critical thinking on debatable topics, and working with peers. These a general skills everyone should have to be educated. Most people can learn and pick up things as they go (me), but some prefer the professional environment. This class provides this, and I'm learning just fine from it. It would be nice if free, open-source alternatives to word processing were advised though. For example Google Docs, Libre Office, and Open Office are all excellent alternatives to Microsoft Office. However Open Office isn't quite as "free" or "open" as its name implies, and Google Docs isn't open-source as far as I know. So Libre Office is the better candidate of the three.